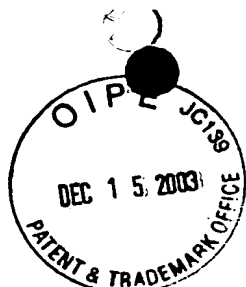


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DEC 16 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
Eisaku ITO, et al. : EXAMINER: VERDIER, C.
SERIAL NO: 10/022,770 :
FILED: December 20, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 3745
FOR: BLADE STRUCTURE IN A GAS TURBINE

PROVISIONAL ELECTION OF SPECIES

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated November 14, 2003, Applicants elect with traverse Species 1, examples of which are shown in Figure 1-4. Accordingly, Applicants identify Claims 1-3 as readable on the provisionally elected species.

Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding requirement for several reasons.

First, the outstanding Office Action merely includes the conclusory statement that "[t]his application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species" without stating any basis whatsoever in support of such a finding. This is in violation of MPEP § 816, which states:

The particular reasons relied on by the examiner for holding the inventions as claimed are either independent or distinct should be concisely stated. A mere statement of conclusion is inadequate. The reasons upon which the conclusion is based should be given.

In the absence of any annunciated basis, it is respectfully submitted that the PTO clearly has not carried forward its burden of proof to establish distinctness.

Secondly, MPEP § 806.04(f) requires:

Claims to be restricted to different species must be mutually exclusive.

The outstanding Official Action fails to address in any way whether the pending claims recite mutually exclusive characteristics and this failure provides a further basis for traversing the election of species requirement.

Finally, MPEP § 803 states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

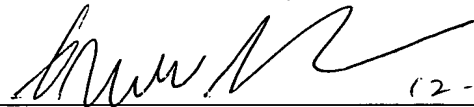
The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, Applicants also respectfully traverse the outstanding requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single species be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-9 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

Customer Number
22850

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



(2-15-03)

Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record

Philip J. Hoffmann
Registration No. 46,340



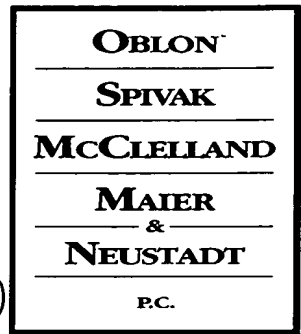
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Docket No.: 217363US3

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Q/M



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/022,770
Applicants: Eisaku ITO, et al.
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Examiner: VERDIER, C.

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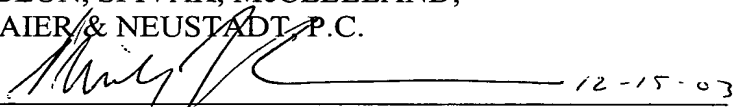
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

PROVISIONAL ELECTION OF SPECIES

Our check in the amount of **-\$0.00-** is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT P.C.


Gregory J. Maier

Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone)

(703) 413-2220 (fax)

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Philip J. Hoffmann

Registration No. 46,340